

Good evening honorable senators and representatives, my name is Tarif Brown I currently reside in Storrs, CT as a first year undergraduate at the University of Connecticut. The Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission is important to me as it advocates for and fastest growing underrepresented minority group in the State of Connecticut. Myself being a minority, and having been raised in a very financially instable family which often resulted in my family and I being homeless with no place to go, can attest that the hardships that many minorities groups go through in the State of Connecticut. APACC is directly addressing the issues facing the Asian and Pacific American community such as language barriers, legal status regarding citizenship, and addressed blatant acts of racism by unifying a very diverse Asian population. This is truly important as the Asian Pacific American population is very diverse, and thus the issues faced by Asian Pacific Americans are very diverse as well. It is due to these reasons why APACC must remain a separate Commission, and not fall victim to Governor Malloy's budget proposal consolidation of the Commissions. The lack of representation only hinders the progression of minorities, and thus the Commissions are a solution to the underrepresented groups in the state of Connecticut having a resource to drastically increase their chances of succeeding in the State of Connecticut. Therefore, even in times of economic hardship it would be a disfavor to halt the progress the commissions have achieved so far, in addition to, a disfavor to every underrepresented group in the State of Connecticut as one Commission could not possibly address all the issues of every underrepresented group in the State of Connecticut. The effect would be that the representation of these underrepresented groups would drastically decline, and the already underrepresented minority groups in Connecticut would have fewer resources available to them to succeed in the State. Thus my honorable senators and representatives I urge you all to raise in full opposition of the Governor's proposal to consolidate the Commissions.